

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:FJMCNEIL/ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN:JANET

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

USOAS:WSMAILLIARD (DRAFT)

ARA: WROGERS

S/P:LEINAUDI (DRAFT)

L: MFELDMAN (DRAFT)

P: JJSISCO

S/S:O P. JOHNSON

L/ARA: DGANTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236997

EXDIS - TOSEC 245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: CUBA SANCTIONS - PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE FIELD
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROGERS

1. THERE IS GROWING SPECULATION IN LATIN AMERICA ABOUT
WHAT OUTCOME THE U.S. WILL BE SEEKING AT QUITO. SOME OF
THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WHICH GENERALLY IDENTIFY WITH OUR
POLICIES AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE SWING VOTES AT QUITO
SEEM TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT GOING ALONG WITH A
LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS. (BOLIVIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
AND GUATEMALA ARE NOTABLE IN THAT RESPECT. IN ALL THREE
INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE AT PLAY.) IF THIS
TREND RESULTS IN A FAILURE AT QUITO TO OBTAIN THE TWO-THIRDS
VOTE REQUIRED BY THE RIO TREATY, WE WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME
BLAME--HOWEVER UNJUSTIFIABLY--FOR THE RESULTING DAMAGE TO
THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. (ITEM: PERUVIAN CHARGE HERE
HAS ALREADY SPECULATED THAT YOUR DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE
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CONFERENCE INDICATES THIS IS OUR PURPOSE.)

2. WE ARE NOT AT THIS STATE ATTEMPTING TO LINE UP VOTES OR OTHERWISE PREVENT WHAT COULD TURN OUT TO BE AN IMPASSE AT QUITO. WE DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS NOW TIMELY TO CLEAR THE AIR A BIT AND ELIMINATE SOME OF THE MORE TROUBLE-SOME SPECULATION ABOUT OUR POSITION AND MOTIVES. FOR THAT PURPOSE WE PROPOSE WITH YOUR AUTHORIZATION TO SEND THE FOLLOWING CABLE TO OUR AMBASSADORS IN THE FIELD AFTER FIRST FILLING IN THE BRAZILIANS HERE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PROPOSED CABLE: FYI. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUITO CONFERENCE, WE ARE STILL FOLLOWING ESSENTIALLY A WATCHING BRIEF. CURRENT DRAFT FLOATED BEHIND THE SCENES BY COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA IS AS BLAND RESOLUTION AS ONE COULD ASK. (TEXT OF CURRENT DRAFT SENT SEPTTEL.) BUT CO-SPONSORS DO NOT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, AS YET HAVE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE 14 VOTES NECESSARY FOR TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIRED BY LETTER OF RIO TREATY. THE U.S. HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW IT WILL VOTE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DISCARDED OPTION OF VOTING AGAINST QUITO RESOLUTION UNLESS DRAFT BECOMES UNSATISFACTORY OR CASTRO UNDERTAKES SOME OUTRAGEOUS PLOY.

4. POSITIONS COULD FIRM UP QUICKLY OR IT COULD GO DOWN TO THE WIRE IN QUITO. THERE IS EVEN SOME SPECULATION IN LATIN AMERICA THAT THE U.S. MAY BE MANEUVERING TO BRING ABOUT AN INCONCLUSIVE RESULT. WE HAVE TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH OAS AMBASSADORS HERE BUT OUR POSITION MAY NOT BE GETTING THROUGH IN ALL CASES TO THE CAPITALS. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONVEY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH OFFICIAL THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON QUITO MFM. END FYI.

5. IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW THE U.S. ULTIMATELY VOTES AT QUITO, WE SEEK, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE, A CONFERENCE THAT DISPOSES OF THIS ISSUE IN A WAY THAT DOES CREDIT TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. IN A SENSE, THE VITALITY OF THE SYSTEM AND THE RIO TREATY HAS BECOME AN ISSUE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT A MAJORITY (ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY AS SPECIFIED BY THE RIO TREATY) CLEARLY WANTS TO END THE SANCTIONS AND FREE

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NATIONS TO ADOPT THE POLICIES THEY CHOOSE TOWARD CUBA.

6. SEVERAL COUNTRIES, PRINCIPALLY THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION CONVOKING THE QUITO MFM (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA), HAVE BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL TO REFINE A DRAFT RESOLUTION. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM OFFERING SUGGESTIONS ON LANGUAGE, BUT HAVE STRESSED THE NEED TO DEVISE A RESOLUTION THAT

ACCOMMODATES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE VARIOUS CONCERNS
OF THE MEMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE
SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH CUBA. IF THE RESOLUTION IS A
REASONABLE ONE WE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT CAST A NEGATIVE NOTE.

7. YOU MAY ADD THAT WE HOPE THIS PRESENTATION WILL CLEAR
UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT U.S. MOTIVES OR THE U.S.
POSITION IN THE ADVENT OF THE QUITO MFM. PLEASE REPORT
REACTIONS. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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